Financial Year	Seizure of unaccounted assests (Rs. in lakhs)	Disclosure of concealed income (Rs. in lakhs)
1990-91	22787.22	32800.76
1991-92	17984.78	18835.43
1992-93	38401.97	50105.12
1993-94	31655.40	34325.44

(e) The Direct Taxes Acts do not provide for capital punishment for economic offences, nor is any such proposal under consideration of the Government of India at present.

Recruitment of Probationary Officers in SBI

868. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that after the test and interview for the post of Probationary Officers in SBI, held in November 1991 and August, 1992, respectively about four hundred candidates were issued selection letters in October, 1992;

(b) whether it is also a fact that medical and police verification of these candidates were completed in 1992;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not issuing appointment letters to successful candidates so far; and

(d) by when these candidates who have been waiting for appointment for more than a year are likely to get appointment letter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) After written test and interview for recruitment to the post of Probationary Officers in State Bank of India held in November, 1991, 386 candidates were declared selected in November, 1992. In respect of the test conducted in August, 1992, the results of the written test have not so far been declared. The medical verification of these 386 candidates has also been completed. Information regarding police verification is not readily available.

(c) and (d) In the context of complaints alleging serious malpractices in the selection process conducted by the Central Recruitment Board which, inter alia, selects probationary officers for the State Bank Group, the Reserve Bank of India had scrutinised the recruitment in question and came to the conclusion that malpractices had crept into the examination exercise and that the candidates whose names figured in the final list may not be free from doubt. The bank was asked to advise the reconstituted Central Recruitment Board to underake re-evaluation of the descriptive papers of the candidates who appeared for interview to detect if there had been indications of undue favours having been shown to some of the candidates or of cheating on their part. In the meantime, some of the candidates filed writ petitions in various High Courts. A final decision in the matter will be taken by State Bank of India on receipt of the results of the re-evaluation exercise and the decision in the court cases.

Foreign Exchange Reserve

869. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Foreign Exchange reserve in the exchequer has increased manifold since 1992-93;

(b) details of Foreign Exchange reserve as on 31st January, 1994, along with break up of its composition;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the increased reserve of Foreign Exchange has aggravated the inflationary pressure

on the economy in the absence of a viable policy to channelise the rupees counterpart of the Foreign Exchange reserves into productive use; and

(d) details of the programme, if any, to maximise the utilisation of the fund to its optimum; and also regarding regular monitoring of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) The foreign currency assets of the Reserve Bank of India rose from US$ 6434 million at the end of March 1993 to US$ 10468 million at the end of January 1994.

(b) India's foreign exchange reserves at the end of January 1994 comprising foreign currency assests of the RBI, gold and SDRs are given below:

(US$ million)

(i) RBI's foreign currency assests	10,468
(ii) Gold	4,001
(iii) SDRs	176
Total foreign exchange reserves:	14,645

(c) Increase in foreign exchange reserves contributes to the growth in reserve money which in turn has inflationary potential. The sources of growth in reserve money can be broadly classified into Net Domestic Assets (NDA) and Net Foreign Assets (NFA). During the current financial year upto February 4, 1994 the NFA increased by Rs. 15,452 crore as against a decline of Rs. 3917 crore during the same period last year. The increase in the NFA was, however, to some extent, offset by a significant deceleration in NDA. The NDA rose by only Rs. 4,554 crore during April-February 4, 1994 as against at increase of Rs. 14,612 crore in the corresponding period of 1992-93. This has considerably moderated the inflationary impact of the increase in net foreign assests during 1993-94 so far.

(d) The inflows of foreign exchange have not been dissipated in foreign exchange expenditures but have been conserved and held as the country's reserves. The Government is constantly monitoring the movements in foreign exchange reserves.

870. [Transferred to 9th March' 94.]

Allowing the private sector to open banks

871. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow private sector to open banks in the country, as a fact of its liberalising policy, and

(b) if so, how many licences are likely to be given under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) In terms of provisions of Banking Regulation Act, 1949, any person/ company intending to set up a bank has to apply in the prescribed form to Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Guidelines have been issued by RBI in January, 1993 regarding entry of new private sector banks.

(b) RBI have received 23 applications in the prescribed form for setting up new banks in the private sector. Out of these applications, RBI have so far granted 'in principle' approval to 9 applicants.

Nomination of non-officials to the Boards of Directors of Banks

872. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have nominated some non-officials to the